



KITITTAS AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2008

THE HOOTER

Hooter

EDITOR CRICKET WEBB

REPORT YOUR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Diane DeLyon has volunteered to compile species data from Kittitas County for Washington Ornithological Society--and she would like your observations! Do you bird local locations? Do you occasionally spot a new species at your yard? If so, please let Diane know what you have seen. For trips to local locations, you can send your entire list for the day. Her e-mail is dgmon@eburg.com and her phone number is 509-674-4865. From her collections we will try to let you know where you may find unusual species.

Gloria Baldi

NEXT MEETING

"Jaguars: A first-hand account of their ecology and conservation."

DATE	THURDAY 2/21/2008	TIME	7:00 PM
PLACE	ELLENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ROOM - 232		

Our speaker this month, Anthony Novak is the new WSDFW Deer and Elk Conflict Specialist for the Kittitas and Yakima counties. This is the latest in a life and career centered on Wildlife and conservation. His interest in wildlife began with his earliest memories of camping and fishing with his dad. Fed by boyhood books such as the Time Life book, "Bears and Other Carnivores", his direction in life was solidified by the purchase of "The Doomsday Book of Animals" by David Day. On those pages, between the vivid pictures of the animal species that had gone extinct, were the stories of how that occurred. Every description told the same story. Humanity was directly to blame, sometimes in a very brutal and senseless manner, for the ultimate disappearance of every species of animal in that book. At that time, he firmly resolved to work against the further addition of animals to that long list of extinctions.

In-between the BS in Forest Resource Conservation and the Masters in Wildlife Ecology was a stint in the Peace Corps in Honduras implementing and administering a mammal inventory within a Honduran national park, developing hunter education, training wildlife management and many other programs. Because of this experience, his Masters thesis



was the foraging ecology of jaguar and mountain lions in Guatemala. Since then he has worked on two other jaguar projects in Guatemala and Paraguay. These projects will be discussed during the presentation.

All Audubon meetings and field trips are open to the public, so feel free to come and meet with us. Stay after the meeting for juice, treats and conversation.

To contact the editor or to submit articles.

Email kashooter@kittitasaudubon.org.

Please use Cricket at the beginning of the subject line

KAS Field Trips

In the January issue of the *Hooter* there is a list of the KAS Field Trips from January through September 2008. Field Trips are fun. If you have special interests, such as, the night sky, rocks, wild flowers, mushrooms, or just a special place to share, please consider leading a trip. Help is always available. Please call (933-1558) if you are interested. We will all be richer for the experience. Jeb

February 2nd First Saturday BirdWalk.

Irene Rinehart River Front Park –

8:00 AM Bridge Parking Lot. Cricket Webb will be our leader. About a two and a half hour walk on uneven ground. Great for local birds. Bring a friend, optics, and we will find birds. (See January's report below.)

February 23rd Northeast Kittitas County & Columbia River. We will be looking for raptors and a variety of ducks on the Columbia River.

Bring a lunch, warm clothes and good shoes as we will be out of the car. Meet at the West end of Super One parking lot to car pool at 8:00 AM.

March 1st First Saturday BirdWalk. Irene Rinehart River Front Park –

8:00 AM Bridge Parking Lot. About a two and a half hour walk on uneven ground. Great for local birds. Bring a friend, optics, and we will find birds.

March 28, 29 & 30 Sandhill Crane Festival in Othello WA. This is not an official KAS trip but is a great opportunity to have a variety of birding experiences. Not only will you see thousands of Sandhill Cranes, but also many other birds and bird information via lectures and/or field trips. Call Othello Chamber of Commerce 509-488-2802 or look on the website.

www.othellosandhillcranefestival.com.

Olympic BirdFest 2008

Sequim, Washington, April 4-6, 2008

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2008 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 4-6, 2008.

Follow your BirdFest weekend with a 3 day, 2 night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands on April 6-8, 2008.. Get program information and registration forms online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

Or contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076, E-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org, Dungeness River Audubon Center
P.O. Box 2450
Sequim, WA 98382

Discovery Park Presents

TRAIL MIX

Nature Lectures for Nourishing the Mind Wings of Beauty February 7

The amazing world of butterflies will come alive through digital photography

Dragonflies—Rainbows on the Wing February 21

Bridges to Understanding February 28

Wild Birds through Photographs March 13

Killer Whale Tales March 27

All proceeds benefit the Discovery Park Environmental Education Scholarship Fund

Register today at www.seattle.gov/parks

Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center (206) 386-4236

Sign up for one or two lecture or for the entire series \$10 advance purchase \$12 the day of the

Winter-Spring Lecture Series

Central Washington Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society

For more information please email central.wa.wnps@gmail.com. You can also visit www.wnps.org/chapter_info/central_washington/home.html for more information about upcoming events.

"Managing Shrub-steppe at a Landscape Scale: Protecting Native Habitats and Greater Sage-Grouse"

presented by Mike Livingston

Monday, February 11, 7 pm

Yakama Valley Community College, Yakima Room 119, Glenn Anthon Hall (for map, see www.yvcc.edu/Map/campusmapcolor.pdf)

"Huckleberries: A Traditional Cultural Resource"

presented by Brent Demko and David Powell

Monday, March 10, 7 pm

Yakama Arboretum, Yakima

"Ethnobotany in the Columbia Basin "

presented by Eugene Hunn

Saturday, April 26, 4-6 pm

Central Washington University, Ellensburg Room 121, Hebel Hall (for map, see www.cwu.edu/~cwuadmis/newmap.html)

First Saturday Birdwalk on Jan 5th. A great start to a New Year!! Who would have thought we would have a sunny day with blue sky, temperature in the low 30's, snow on the ground, and open water in the upper lake? The birds must have known too. We began the day with an American Robin perched just right to have the sun reflect off its red breast. This sighting of a Robin in January was our first in over five years of the First Saturday BirdWalks. We had extremely close views of Golden-crowned Kinglets, as well as, the little Winter Wren. The wren skulked in and out of the low dark caverns at the base of bushes and old fallen trees. Perhaps the most interesting observation was to watch the Black-capped Chickadees (small flock of about 10) land on a knapweed stems. The weight of each little bird was such that it tipped over the stem and the bird would be comically lying on its back in the snow, pulling and eating the seeds it was able to forage. In addition to the little birds, the Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks were 'showy'. Ten people enjoyed the winter morning walk while finding a total of 17 species for the day. Jeb

January 12th Winter Feeder Tour. Five KAS members generously opened their homes to display winter bird feeding techniques. A great variety of offerings are provided the birds of our valley. (Participants were also provided a variety of treats to the extent some of us now weigh a few pounds more.) There was not an attempt to record the number of species, but to see how creatively one is able to attract birds in the winter. Important features are water and cover, besides the food. One family provides marmalade jam with dried fruit that attracts House Finches and Song Sparrows. At one home, a solar bird bath is under study as a winter water option. We will let you know if it is viable. All the homes were in eastern Kittitas County, so as we traveled we birded, spotting many Red-tailed Hawks, a few Northern Rough-legged Hawks, several American Kestrels, two Bald Eagles, and one Prairie Falcon. Checking out an open-water hidden pond on our way back, we found eight species of water fowl. Really a fun day. Thanks go to KAS members Deborah Essman, Tom & Diane Gauron, Marilyn & Gerry Sorenson, Sue & Don Wooldridge, and my wife, Gloria B. Jeb

January 19, 2008 Lower Yakima Valley,

Six KAS members braved the 24° partly-cloudy chill to visit 3 areas of public land along the Yakima River from the Yakima Greenway to Sunnyside. On the way, the canyon yielded 11 bald eagles. Cottonwoods at Sarg Hubbard park were silent on arrival but with a bit of sun by mid-morning a chorus of red-winged blackbirds, a flock of wigeons brunching on the grass, and a leisurely perched Cooper's hawk caught our attention. A strip of riparian area near Wapato, off Mellis Road, is one of several I-80 Wildlife Areas set aside by the WA Fish and Wildlife (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildarea.htm>). Brush and bank were quiet here as well but on leaving, a northern shrike posed for us.

For lunch, we traveled a further half-hour to the extensive DFW Sunnyside Wildlife Area. Small birds were still mostly hiding (a few white-crowned sparrows) but we saw juvenile double-crested cormorants and several perched redtails (no thermals today). A juvenile yellow-rumped warbler (an apparent Myrtle) gave us an airshow catching "no-see-ums". At a second area, many harriers were seen cruising and resting in wheat stubble. Total species: 27, with a guest appearance of a river otter at the Hubbard ponds. Mexican cuisine fortified us on our twilight return to Ellensburg.

Steve Moore.



WELCOME TO THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT OF 2008.

**Want to know how to participate.
 It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!**

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes during February 15–18, 2008. Count birds at as many places and on as many days as you like—just keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time, and write it down.

You can get regional bird checklist from <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/checklist>

3. Enter your results at <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/input>

That's it! We'll look forward to receiving your counts.

Welcome to three new members effective this bright new year of 2008. Glad to have you in our roster of birding enthusiasts. Hopefully you new folks can join us in the monthly first Saturday Bird Walks at Irene Reinhart Park.

Don Wooldridge Membership Chair

New Novel Takes on Endangered Species and Extinction

How the Dead Dream, a new novel by Center for Biological Diversity staffer Lydia Millet, tells the story of an ambitious young real estate developer in L.A. who, after a personal crisis, becomes obsessed with rare and vanishing animals and starts breaking into zoos at night to be close to them. Millet, an award-winning novelist who also happens to be married to Center for Biological Diversity founder Kieran Suckling, has written one of the very first American novels to approach the emotional and aesthetic implications of the extinction tragedy. ***How the Dead Dream*** is notable for its thoughtful engagement with the social and personal effects of massive species loss:

He soon learned to recognize the signs of an animal's imminent disappearance. Some were tagged or collared or photographed, some monitored by bureaucrats. Some-times a group or individual took up the cause of an animal or a plant and could muster the rationale for a lawsuit, and often the courts favored the victim; but the victim remained a victim and for each victim whose passing was noted thousands more slid away in the dark.

As the story's protagonist struggles by night with ideas of human aloneness and what it might mean to be a "last" animal, he's building sprawling subdivisions by day, grappling with his suicidal mother, whose husband has left her to find himself working in a gay bar in Key West, and fending off attacks by his brutal and jealous business partner Fulton.

How the Dead Dream is Millet's sixth novel, and not the first to explore environmental issues; her fifth, *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart*, dealt with the moral, cultural and philosophical legacy of nuclear weapons. Available from publisher Counterpoint in January 2008, ***How the Dead Dream*** has already been voted one of the top books of the year by both the National Book Critics' Circle and the American Library Association's *Booklist*.

Reading Group Guides to help spur discussion in book clubs and classes are available for both [conservation-focused](#) and [general](#) audiences.



The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats

For the safety of birds and small animals the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon promote "Cats Indoors!" The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats

There are more than 90 million pet cats in the U.S., the majority of which roam outside at least part of the time. In addition, millions of stray and feral cats roam our cities, suburbs, and rural areas. Scientists estimate that free-roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year. Cat predation is an added stress to wildlife populations already struggling to survive habitat loss, pollution, pesticides, and other human impacts.

In 1997, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) launched the *Cats Indoors!* Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats to educate cat owners, decision makers, and the general public that cats, wildlife and people all benefit when cats are kept indoors, in an outdoor enclosure, or trained to go outside on a harness and leash. ABC developed many education materials, including fact sheets, posters, the popular brochure, "Keeping Cats Indoors Isn't Just For The Birds", an Educator's Guide for Grades K-6, print and radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and more.



There is more information on the ABC website:

<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html>

Not only the birds benefit.

Feline Safety—Your Cat and the Outside World

Keeping your cat indoors can help your cat live a longer, healthier life. House cats have a life expectancy of 15 years or more, whereas outdoor cats typically live an average of only 5 years. Here are three reasons why indoor cats live longer:

- Shielding your cat from the outside world reduces his or her risk of attack by other cats, dogs, coyotes, and other predators, as well as reduces the risk of being hit by a car—one of the most common outdoor threats.
- House cats are less likely to contract disease or parasites from other outdoor animals. Free-roaming cats are more likely to encounter ticks, fleas, and worms, as well as become infected with feline leukemia, rabies, and respiratory diseases.
- Cats that stay inside are less likely to require emergency treatment or costly prescription cat medicines. Healthy, safe house cats minimize the need for any potential expensive medical care costs associated with the treatment of feline diseases and parasites contracted from other cats and wildlife.

Here are tips to keeping your cat happy indoors

<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials/outin.pdf>

A second cat is another way to keep your cat active and entertained if you need to be out of the house all day.

Winter is a good time to start your cats on an indoor life because they are already inclined to want to be in a warm house.

Keep your pet at your side for a long healthy life providing you entertainment and companionship.

Step 4: Water Sources

Wildlife need sources of clean water for many purposes, including drinking, bathing, and reproduction. Water sources may include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans, and wetlands; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, installed ponds, or rain gardens.

Climate change is threatening our sources of clean water by increasing temperatures and reducing rainfall in some areas, causing drought conditions and lower water tables. In other areas, increased rainfall and extreme weather events such as tornadoes and hurricanes cause flooding and erosion of natural ecosystems and can pollute local watersheds. These problems highlight the importance of providing a constant source of clean water for birds, mammals, fish and other wildlife in their different habitats.

Your NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat will provide water for wildlife, and sustainable gardening practices help to ensure that our human demands on water are kept to a minimum.

Attract Wild Birds with Fountains, Drippers, Misters, and More

Caution. Barrel water gardens or other deep water features with steep sides can be a drowning hazard for wild birds.



Introduction. You can also attract wild birds to your Wildlife Porch, patio, or balcony by providing water features. These include

- specially-designed, small water gardens
- moving water like fountains, misters, or drippers.

Water Gardens. Water gardens for small outdoor areas are usually barrel water gardens or tabletop pools of water. They should be specially designed so wild birds do not drown. A grate over the top or rocks or plant pots can be placed to protect wild birds from falling and still allow access to the water.

Moving Water. Moving water seems to hold a special fascination for birds. Small drips of water act as bird showers, allowing them to rinse dirt and debris off their feathers. You can add moving water through fountains, drippers, misters, slow waterfalls, and more.

Fountains. You can easily add small fountains to barrel ponds or tabletop pools.

Drippers. Drippers can be store-bought or handmade and slowly drop small amounts of water into a birdbath or other water feature.

Misters. Misters are added to barrel ponds or birdbaths and spray a fine mist many birds like to fly through to rinse their feathers.

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http://www.thewildlifeporch.com/wild_bird_water_features.html

A longer article about pond use, placement, heating etc. *can be found at*
<http://www.avianaquatics.com/products/waterinwinter.html>

HOOTER

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_____ Kittitas Audubon Membership includes a subscription to the monthly Hooter, and the opportunity to support local activities for \$20.00 per year.

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Make check payable to Kittitas Audubon Society

Clip coupon and send with your check to:

Kittitas Audubon Membership
 P.O. Box 1443
 Ellensburg WA 98926

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP

_____ National Audubon Membership includes membership in Kittitas Audubon and subscription to both the monthly Hooter and Audubon Magazine (published 6 time a year). Membership is \$20.00 for new members. Renewals are \$35.00 per year.

Name _____

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Make check payable to National Audubon Society

Clip coupon and send with your check to:

National Audubon Society Chapter Code Y22
 Chapter Membership Data Center 7XBP

DONATIONS are appreciated and give you the opportunity to further support and fund KAS Chapter activities. If you have a National Audubon membership, donations are especially important since KAS no longer receives a portion of your National Membership dues to defray cost for the Hooter.

_____ \$15.00 American Goldfinch _____ \$100.00 Great Blue Heron
 _____ \$ 50.00 Red-tailed Hawk _____ Other - Donations in any amount are appreciated

Make check payable to Kittitas Audubon Society

Name _____ Clip coupon and send with your check to:

Address _____ Kittitas Audubon Membership

City _____ State _____ P.O. Box 1443

Zip _____ Phone _____ Ellensburg WA 98926

KITTITAS COUNTY BUSINESSES SUPPORTING KAS



Inland Internet, Roslyn, Donates internet service for our Website:

<http://www.kittitasaudubon.org>

Old Mill Country Store, Ellensburg

Provides a discount on bird seed to KAS members and prints our county bird lists.



The mission of Kittitas Audubon Society is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds. The goal for KAS is a vibrant active organization recognized in Kittitas county.

Kittitas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1443
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[Http://www.kittitasaudubon.org](http://www.kittitasaudubon.org)

